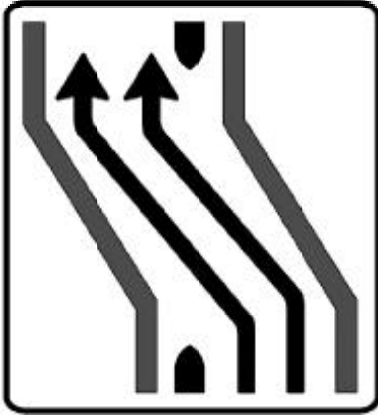


The Passing Lane

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from the Washington State County Road Administration Board

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The Passing Lane is a publication of the Washington State County Road Administration Board. Unauthorized distribution is strictly forbidden unless accompanied by boisterous praise for the below mentioned staff.

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Release 14 Autocad

It's coming! The Beta is out. Here are some of the improvements to look for:

- ☆ New Improved Windows interface including "Explorer" file selection dialogs.
- ☆ Clip Xrefs to reduce drawing overhead
- ☆ Xref Manager reduces Xref confusion
- ☆ Easier, better network license administration (no more hardware lock!)
- ☆ Incorporate bitmap images easier than ever
- ☆ Paint properties on entities
- ☆ Autosnap for multiple running osnaps

Look for Release 14 sometime this summer. What about Eagle Point and R14? Look for Eagle Point for R14 by the end of May. Phone CRAB if you'd like to receive a copy.



SWIBS Forms Printing Fix

Have you had this problem: When printing SWIBS forms, the printer just spews paper? Or how about, the wrong form prints? Or maybe, you get multiple copies of the same form — or worse yet, nothing prints at all! Guess what, you're not alone. Go to the CRAB FTP site <ftp.crab.wa.gov> or the bulletin board (360) 664-0946 and download INSPFORM.EXE. With the update to CRIS 3.20, a problem with the form printing of PONTIS data was fixed, but inexplicably got corrupted when transferred to the CRIS 3.20 install program.

Run the INSPFORM.EXE program and you'll be happy to know that you can then correctly print SWIBS forms. Give the CRIS Help Line a call if you have any questions at (360) 664-CRIS.





CEAL Exchange 1997

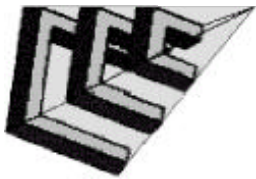
John D. just got back from the latest CEAL Exchange held this year at CLM's headquarters in Tampa, Florida. He was joined there by 35 other professionals from all over the country who came to find out more about the latest version of CEAL, release 7.11.

This year marked an important change from previous years as Intergraph, Inc. of Huntsville, Alabama, was invited to speak about their line of civil engineering products. This courtesy was prompted by CLM's recent joint development/marketing agreement with Intergraph allowing Intergraph to market CLM/COGO while provid-



ing CEAL licensees (like Washington counties) access to Intergraph products at reduced prices. Eventually, Intergraph expects that some portion of CLM/COGO will be available full time inside of one or more of their civil modules, such as Inroads. The presentations by the Intergraph staff were interesting and sparked the inevitable comparison discussions. The Oklahoma DOT, who sent several representatives, expects to be a major beneficiary of the cheaper Inroads, since they already use that product for many tasks. CLM has already built data translation facilities into 7.11 to swap data and models between many of Intergraph's systems and CEAL COGO and TOPO/ROADS.

The new CLM website was also presented. It has their latest newsletter and lots of other information about what's new at CLM. Join me now at the browser, let's type:



<http://www.clmsystems.com>.



Points of Confusion

Now it can be told - that when your Eagle Point prompt says "Select Nodes" that you can also answer by typing **po**, meaning point, and that now you are free to snap to locations in the plan drawing without having to have a node there. Cool!



Speaking of the Fall Conference...

Might as well mark it down now. You asked for The Pass. You got it. You ask for October. You got October 8-10. You asked for steer wrestling, that one's on hold pending an outcome to the Attorney General's investigation. You asked for free mouse pads.... Don't count on it. If you liked these conferences in the past, then consider yourself on board for our best ever. You'll get the latest scoop on all of our present and approaching systems: CEAL, Eagle Point, CaiCe, Inroads. Softdesk users are also invited to contact John or Jim about how best to provide a facility for their user's group.

Look for more news about the Fall Conference, including agenda topics, and opportunities for YOU to participate. If you have any ideas about things you want to present or see at the Conference, don't delay and call us up right now to let us know. Remember, only speakers get those really neat parting gifts, each one custom tailored to meet your exacting standards.



And in Every Directory... A Project

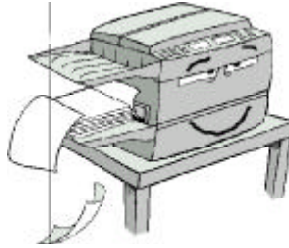
It's one of the first things we say at the fundamentals classes, but it may often go unnoticed when later you're out in the trenches defending your data. To wit: **Every Eagle Point project gets its own directory.**

Have you got more than one project in a directory (or folder)? If so, then you are heading down the proverbial road (or more specifically, *roadcalc*) fraught with perils. CEAL users will appreciate this. To stay organized about model files in CEAL, we often give them file names that are meaningful. Maybe A001.END is the endarea file based on centerline chain A001. In Eagle Point, you have no control over the naming convention for these files. Eagle Point users keep track of design files using a descriptive list called the Subproject Manager. The first subproject section file, for example, always has the same name to the operating system, but can have any type of user description in the index list. If two projects try to operate on the same subproject in the same directory, then count on the previous version of that section file getting overwritten. Stay healthy, eat right, take your vitamins, get plenty of sleep, and put only one project in a directory.



Printing in CRIS - a reminder

Something to remember about printing and CRIS, most importantly, is that CRIS is still a DOS program and generally prints to the device LPT1. You can change the port going through the System | Arev menu however this isn't recommended since it will change the port for ALL your CRIS account users.



The best method of routing your print is through your Windows™ control panel. Most counties are now running some flavor of Windows (based on our recent survey) so go to the Control Panel, Printers and Properties area. Make sure you have the LPT1 port routed to the appropriate network queue. This is sometimes called a "Capture" to a network port and is often overlooked by your Information Systems folks when they are setting up your computer in Windows and when you are running DOS programs like AREV.

For those of you working in Windows NT, you need to set this variable manually, similar to:

Net use lpt1: \\servername\printername /persistent:yes



Pierce County Web Experience

Wow! Pierce County's Transportation Services website is certainly worth a visit! Were you ever curious about the traffic count on Pioneer way? Or did you ever wonder what the speed limit and Arterial classification of Madrona Parkway was? You can find out with a visit to this site. Pierce County has presented this information and more, in easy to read (and current!) tables. I wonder where they get that data from? CRIS maybe?

Another very nice feature are the Road Closure tables, very handy and informative. There is a lot of information and well worth a surf, catch the wave and visit: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/services/transpo/trsrvblk1.htm> Today!



PIERCE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES
Transportation Services



Layering Effects

Layers are the way Autocad drawings stay organized. They are flexible in many ways and you can have as many as you want. They stay with the drawing and contain information about color and linetype that generalize the characteristics of drawing objects (aka the BYLAYER characteristic). They can be turned on and off or frozen or thawed, depending on if you care about whether the display needs regeneration (Freeze/Thaw) or not (On/Off). In combination with the Filter command, layers are often a key object characteristic that's useful when assembling that other convenient device of the Autocad world - the Selection Set.

Layers do have their limitations, however. The most important one, the one that inspires this article, and the only one I can think of right now is this: *There are 31 maximum characters in the layer name.* This seems like plenty, and probably is for the vast majority of users (the rest of us could easily get used to not typing so much). The problem is not the lack of verbosity, but that a command called XREF creates layer names in the drawing based on 1) layer in source drawing, and 2) source drawing name. XREF can easily and indiscriminately bump your layer names over 31 characters and will automatically truncate them. This may not be a problem for you, but it is a problem for Eagle Point in creating Plan/Profile Sheets in Roadcalc. Roadcalc uses XREF to attach your project basemap drawing and profile drawing to each individual plan/profile sheet. Each sheet becomes its own separate drawing with XREF references. This is a good idea for staying organized and is a valid application of Autocad's XREF function. But, if layer names get truncated expect problems like "Can't see the basemap". Keep up the good work and those layer names less than 20 characters.



Final run of upgrading to AREV 3.12

John McEachron announced that every county (except those holdouts in Spokane) has been successfully upgraded to AREV3.12. We've learned a lot from all the time spent with the CRIS users and extend a big Thank You for the cooperation and hospitality.

During those trips, we received a lot of great input and concerns regarding the upcoming Mobility and will certainly be keeping them in mind during development.



Other CEAL goodies

CEAL 7.11 was also major news at the CEAL Exchange. The good news here is more powerful prompts commands (better IF THEN ELSE type functions and external file I/O added). Look for least squares traverse reduction. There is increased object capacities (chains 999, profile points 999, section points 999). Start a command with a pound sign (#) to prevent it from entering history. CECAD, CEPLOT are now available from the dot prompt or CEAL menu. And, as usual with major releases of CEAL, there's lots more Spec Settings than in the previous version, so be sure and take a tour before you get too far along in using your upgrade. You may be missing out on some of the enhancements.

Also, CEAL commands get out to printers and plot files differently in 7.1. The print command does not go to the printer, but acts just like the display command. All text that's displayed goes into the Alpha file (2.209). This is like the **OUTput Save *fname*** and **OUTput END** routine from previous versions.

The difference is that text is always going to the Alpha file (the file is **always** open) and that text is appended to the bottom of the file. To clear out the file, run the command **Alpha Initialize**. To print the contents of the Alpha file, use **Alpha Print**. To save the current Alpha file for later, use **Alpha Save *fname***.

Plotting to a file is similar. The new CEAL Graf file (3.102) is always open (no more **Pfile Save** and **Pfile END** commands). You can store the results of Plot commands in the current Graf file, save that Graf file to a file with it's own name (**Graf Save *fname***). Once it's saved to a unique file you can send it to a plotter the same way (**Pfile Plot *fname***).

These changes will be interesting to anyone who was already organizing their output in .OUT and PLT files.

If you want your copy of CEAL 7.11, phone Jennifer at (360) 753-5989 and tell her "Come Seven Come Eleven!!" (after you tell her who you are). She'll send out a set of disks plus your own personal copy of "Summary of Changes - R7.1x" suitable for framing.

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